

**Testimony of Tim Gaffney of Torrington**  
**Aging Committee**  
**March 3, 2011**

**HB 6453: An Act Concerning Grandparents' Visitation Rights**

Dear Senator Prague, Representative Serra and members of the Aging Committee,

I am writing in support of Proposed H.B. No. 6453, An Act Concerning Grandparents' Visitation Rights. If passed, this bill would enable grandparents to be granted the right to visit their grandchild(ren). By providing grandparents this right, Connecticut would be doing a great service to children who are currently unable to have contact with their grandparents despite previously having a relationship with them.

My wife and I have not seen our six-year-old granddaughter Skyy for over a year. We have provided both emotional and financial support for our daughter and Skyy since Skyy's birth. In 2007, our daughter and Skyy moved to Torrington and my wife, Deb, essentially became Skyy's primary caregiver. Between 2007 and 2010, Skyy spent about four nights per week in our care, at our house. During that time, Deb took care of Skyy when our daughter was at work, during both days and evenings.

Skyy has been living in her father's custody for the past year and as a result of Connecticut's current laws regarding Grandparents' rights, we have been unable to see her. We are concerned for her well-being, not because we feel that her father is unfit, but because we have not been able to check in on her to ensure that she is happy, healthy and safe. Deb and I have provided a positive influence and example for Skyy ever since she was born. We feel that we should have the opportunity to prove that Skyy's life could only get better if we were able to spend time with her.

The bill under consideration is near and dear to my heart. I urge the committee to support the passage of Proposed H.B. No. 6453, An Act Concerning Grandparents' Visitation Rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Gaffney  
197 Heights Drive  
Torrington, CT 06790